

Reply to Office Action dated January 5, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-16 and 20-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 10-16 and 20 are amended, claims 2, 4 and 17-19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 21-23 are added. Various amendments are made to the claims for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

The Office Action objects to claims 4 and 16 because of informalities. By this Amendment, claim 4 is canceled. The above amendment to claim 16 obviates the grounds for objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent 6,128,434 to Hirayama et al. (hereafter Hirayama). The Office Action also rejects claims 1, 2, 9-11, 14, 15, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0039472 to Kim. Still further, the Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hirayama in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0040842 to Yokota et al. (hereafter Yokota). The rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Hirayama discloses a reproduction apparatus that is designed to select and decode speech and subtitles (characters) in a given language from a disk on which various types of information are recorded in different languages. This system arrangement makes it possible to standardize the manufacture of disks and reproduction apparatuses world-wide, resulting in a reduction in production cost. In a disk, various types of information are recorded in different languages along with video information. A reproduction apparatus selects information in a given language from

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the reproduced information using a data string processing section, a system control section, and an operator section, and supplies the selected pieces of information to each of a video processing section, a subtitle decoder, and an audio processing section.

Hirayama does not teach or suggest comparing the stored reproduction mode to the recording information and reproduction modes read out from the disc as recited in independent claim 1 (and similarly recited in independent claim 11). Hirayama also does not teach or suggest playing information recorded on a plurality of subsequently loaded discs in accordance with a current reproduction mode, wherein the current reproduction mode comprises the stored user prescribed reproduction mode when the user prescribed reproduction mode corresponds to the disc reproduction mode read out from the disc, and the current reproduction mode comprises the disc reproduction mode when the user prescribed reproduction mode does not correspond to the disc reproduction mode read out from the disc, as recited in independent claim 11 (and similarly recited in independent claim 20).

Hirayama merely discloses that a menu is displayed and the user selects a language from various languages that information stored on a disc is recorded in. This is not comparing a stored reproduction mode to reproduction modes read out from the disc, as recited in independent claim 1 (and similarly recited in independent claim 11). Hirayama merely relates to a user selecting one language from a plurality of languages stored on the disk. Hirayama does not disclose or suggest setting and storing a user prescribed reproduction mode in a recording medium player (as respectively recited in each of independent claims 1, 11 and 20) or comparing

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the stored reproduction mode to the reproduction modes read out from the disc as recited in independent claim 1 (and similarly recited in independent claim 11).

The Office Action appears to assert that Hirayama col. 11, lines 46-53 disclose reading out and reproducing information recorded on the disc in accordance with the stored reproduction mode when the stored reproduction mode corresponds to the recording information and reproduction modes read out from the disc. However, this cited portion of Hirayama merely discloses that after the data strings for reproduced sound and subtitles have been determined, the system control section 204 causes the data string processing section 203 to specify the subpicture number for obtaining the subtitle output from the subcode shown in FIG. 3B and the audio number for obtaining the speech output, and after this, control goes to a reproduction process.

The cited section does not teach or suggest reading out and reproducing information recorded on the disc in accordance with the stored reproduction mode when the stored reproduction mode corresponds to the recording information and reproduction modes read out from the disc, as recited in independent claim 1. This also does not teach or suggest playing information recorded on a plurality of subsequently loaded discs in accordance with a current reproduction mode, wherein the current reproduction mode comprises the stored user prescribed reproduction mode when the user prescribed reproduction mode corresponds to the disc reproduction mode read out from the disc, and the current reproduction mode comprises the disc reproduction mode when the user prescribed reproduction mode does not correspond

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to the disc reproduction mode read out from the disc, as recited in independent claim 11 (and similarly recited in independent claim 20).

For at least the reasons set forth above, Hirayama does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claims 1, 11 and 20.

Kim discloses a system for reproducing a subtitle from an optical recording medium and a method thereof. The system reconfigures a subtitle menu during reproducing data from an optical disc and selects the reconfigured menu in order to play the optical disc. The method includes selecting a play menu from the optical recording medium to be played, reconfiguring and storing menu execution information, and executing the play menu previously reconfigured whenever playing the previously played optical disc or a newly played optical disc. Once a setup menu is reconfigured before or during playing of the disc, the previously configured menu is applied when the optical disc is played again or a new optical disc is played.

Kim does not disclose or suggest comparing the stored reproduction mode to the recording information and reproduction modes read out from the disc as recited in independent claim 1 (and similarly recited in independent claim 11). Kim also does not teach or suggest playing information recorded on a plurality of subsequently loaded discs in accordance with a current reproduction mode, wherein the current reproduction mode comprises the stored user prescribed reproduction mode when the user prescribed reproduction mode corresponds to the disc reproduction mode read out from the disc, and the current reproduction mode comprises

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the disc reproduction mode when the user prescribed reproduction mode does not correspond to the disc reproduction mode read out from the disc.

Kim merely discloses a setup menu being provided by a DVD and the user selecting a language for a subtitle. This does not teach or suggest comparing a stored user prescribed reproduction mode to a disc reproduction mode read out from the disc, as recited in independent claim 11 (and similarly recited in independent claim 1). Kim merely relates to a user selecting a subtitle language. Kim does not teach or suggest storing a user prescribed reproduction mode in a recording medium player or comparing the user prescribed reproduction mode to the disc reproduction mode read out from the disc (as respectively recited in each of independent claims 1, 11 and 20).

The Office Action asserts that Kim' paragraph [24] discloses reading out and reproducing information recorded on the disc in accordance with the stored reproduction mode when the stored reproduction mode corresponds to the recording information and reproduction modes read out from the disc. However, the cited portion of Kim merely disclose reading the set-up menu from the disc, selecting a subtitle menu, making a determination of whether a subtitle set up by a user exists, selecting the subtitle from subtitles supported by the disc, making a determination of whether the subtitle menu is set to ON, playing the disc without the subtitle in response to the determination being negative, and playing the disc and displaying the subtitle on a monitor.

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The cited section does not teach or suggest reading out and reproducing information recorded on the disc in accordance with the stored reproduction mode when the stored reproduction mode corresponds to the recording information and reproduction modes read out from the disc, as recited in independent claim 1. This also does not teach or suggest playing information recorded on a plurality of subsequently loaded discs in accordance with a current reproduction mode, wherein the current reproduction mode comprises the stored user prescribed reproduction mode when the user prescribed reproduction mode corresponds to the disc reproduction mode read out from the disc, and the current reproduction mode comprises the disc reproduction mode when the user prescribed reproduction mode does not correspond to the disc reproduction mode read out from the disc, as recited in independent claim 11 (and similarly recited in independent claim 20). Kim merely relates to playing the disc without the subtitle in response to the second determination being negative in operation, and playing the disc and displaying the subtitle on a monitor connected to the DVD player through the system controller in operation in response to the second determination being positive.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Kim does not teach or suggest all the features of each of independent claims 1, 11 and 20.

Accordingly, Hirayama and Kim do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claims 1, 11 and 20. The other applied references do not teach or suggest the missing features. Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 11 and 20 defines patentable subject matter.

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Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 5-16 and 20 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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